

ROOSEVELT SAYS WILSON MESSAGE IS MEANINGLESS

Asserts President Covers Policy
of Dishonorable Inaction
With Words.

HIS ELOCUTION THAT OF BYZANTINE LOGOTHETE

Ocean City, Dec. 7.—Col. Roosevelt issued a long and bitter attack on President Wilson's message. He finds the message to be filled with meaningless sentences, which he challenges any man, including the President, to explain, and asserts that the document reveals Mr. Wilson as man without convictions, who in the present instance is using words to "cover a policy of dishonorable inaction."

His statement follows:

"What does Mr. Wilson mean when he says that we have 'stood apart, studiously neutral' because it was our manifest duty to do so, and a couple of paragraphs later says that 'we demand security in prosecuting their self-chosen lines of national development for others'? He can take either of the two positions, but he cannot take both."

"Did or did not Mr. Wilson 'demand security' for Belgium to prosecute its self-chosen lines of national development? He knows he did not. Then what does he mean by saying that 'we demand this security also for others'?"

"Again he says that he regards war as a means of asserting the rights of a people against aggression, and yet he says that it was our duty to remain studiously neutral when Belgium asserted the rights of her people by war against the aggression of Germany. How does he reconcile these two statements? He cannot do so. He is using words to cover a policy of dishonorable inaction."

"Again, he says that we are 'jealous of aggression from without.' How did he show his 'jealousy' as regards the aggressions on the Lusitania and Ancona, which resulted in the loss of several scores and the jeopardy of hundreds of American lives?"

How About Mexico?

"How has he shown his 'jealousy' as regards the sixty or seventy soldiers wearing the American uniform, not to speak of the women and children and civilians who have been killed and injured by Mexican bullets? One symptom of his 'jealousy' to prevent aggression from without was the issuing of an order that our men should not fire back when fired upon."

"Mr. Wilson's elocution and Mr. Wilson's action are in flat contradiction. His elocution is that of a Byzantine logothete—and Byzantine logothetes were not men of action."

"The Standard Dictionary gives 'logothete' as an auditor or treasurer of accounts; in the Byzantine Empire, the head of a department or the head of a bureau; in the Greek Church, the Chancellor of the Patriarch of Constantinople. The Byzantine Empire is described by Gibbon as a 'redoubtable and uniform rule of a despotic monarchy.' Taine calls it a 'stuporous mindlessness lasting a thousand years.'"

"President Wilson says that we have been put to the test in the case of Mexico. He has been put to the test, and that we have applied a 'therapeutic principle' to the case of Mexico. Of all possible adjectives that could be found in the English language by the most minute search of the dictionary, the most suitable one would not be possible to find one more inappropriate to the Administration's course in Mexico than the adjective 'therapeutic.'"

Nearly three years ago Mr. Wilson refused to recognize Huerta on the ground that we were never to recognize a Government founded on violence. He then tentatively supported Villa, who represented the embodiment of violence; it being meanwhile asserted on behalf of the Administration that under no circumstances would we deal with Carranza, whose Government likewise was founded on violence."

Defence of Outrages.

"The President has now eaten his words and recognized Carranza; and through his private secretary he has issued a defence of and apology for the outrages committed by the Carranzistas against the other bandits of the other faction in Mexico. Outrages as infamous as ever were committed by savages anywhere under the sun."

Mr. Wilson refused to employ the power of the United States to protect the lives of American men and the honor of American women or to save those wearing the United States uniform from death or from insult. He took no steps to save Mexican and foreign women and children, married women and unmarried women—when they were subjected to outrages and humiliations which make the white slave traffic seem trivial by comparison."

In his present message President Wilson advocates as necessary certain propositions for putting this country in a state of preparedness to defend itself against foreign aggression. In his message one year ago he said such propositions were hysterical and improper. I am glad that he has changed his mind, but I am sorry that he has not changed his mind to study the subject so as to make his proposals reasonably adequate to the country's need."

His proposed enlargement of the regular army is utterly inadequate. With certain of his statements, it is almost impossible to deal, simply because it seems incredible that their apparent and obvious meaning can be their real meaning. For example, he says, 'We will not maintain a standing army except for uses which are as necessary in time of peace as in time of war; and we shall always see to it that our military establishment is no larger than is actually and continually needed for the uses of days in which no enemies move against us.'"

What this means I have no idea, and I am certain that no one else has any idea, including the President himself. What necessary use have our forts and our coast guns in time of peace? How is our field artillery 'continually needed for the uses of days in which no enemies move against us? I ask these questions seriously. I defy any man to give me a serious answer which shall not show that the statements are absurdities."

Attacks the Continentals.

"The proposed 'Continental' army cannot produce good results. It is a proposal that a few of the young men of the country shall for two months every year abandon their work and in the interest of the common defence train themselves to defend their successful business rivals who decline to abandon their work in the interest of the common defence. The President's proposal is merely to create an inefficient rival of the National Guard, will damage the National Guard without achieving any useful purpose whatever."

It is the duty of this nation in time of peace to prepare for war; and it is no less the duty of this Administration now in time of war to prepare for the industrial struggles that will follow upon the peace. The Administration has done neither and is doing neither. The pro-

posal to purchase ships by the national government is a proposal to prevent private business from undertaking the permanent revival of the American shipping trade."

"As regards the tariff we need a non-partisan tariff commission of experts, who shall treat the tariff as a business proposition in the interests of the business of the country as a whole and of all our fellow citizens, so as both to secure and adequately to distribute prosperity."

"The message does not make clear what it is—if anything—which the President proposes in the way of industrial legislation or action. He states that the transportation problem lies at the very bottom of our efficiency as a people. This statement could be more appropriately made of this whole business proposition, of which the transportation problem is only one side, although a very important side."

Industry Needs Greater.

"He seems to stand, and in one sentence clearly does stand, for the regulation of the railways of the country. There is an even greater need of the encouragement, and incidentally the regulation, of industry. We need efficiency in railroading; but if there are no goods to carry there is no use in having carriers; and therefore the fundamental thing is efficiency in business."

"The trouble with our business in this country to-day is that it must be transacted at loose ends, largely because our business men whose first desire is to obey the law have been and are in jeopardy lest some governmental official, national or State, may decide that they have disobeyed the laws—these laws themselves being often in hopeless conflict with one another."

"The honest business man of great capacity, whose great capacity should be at the service of the country, is often unable to find out how his business can be transacted legally on anything that approximates a large scale and that is in keeping with modern economic conditions and requirements."

"In short, the President fails to make a single constructive recommendation as regards industry."

"The most noteworthy part of the message is that in which he says that the gravest threats against our national peace and national safety come from citizens of the United States born under other flags, who have been disloyal and who have sought to bring the adequate and good name of our Government into contempt and to destroy our industries wherever they thought it effective for their vindictive purpose. In this he is entirely correct."

Try Jackson's Remedy.

"But the remedy lies in action such as Andrew Jackson took about nullification, such as Grover Cleveland took about anarchy in Chile. He states that we are without adequate Federal laws to deal with the situation. He says that such laws are necessary in order to 'have the honor and self-respect of the United States.' He states that it is possible to deal with the disloyalty, murderous anarchy and conspiracies of which he speaks 'very effectively'; but he adds that 'the President's message is in terms in which they may be dealt with.'"

"If President Wilson has not adequate power he should tell us exactly what he wishes in order to get the adequate power. He should demand that the national Legislature give him the power."

"But as a matter of fact Mr. Wilson is himself responsible for most of the trouble which he complains of. 'He has no policy of blood and iron with a policy of milk and water.'"

"The President now calls to Congress that he is unable to supply what is lacking by passing laws the nature of which he does not indicate. There would be no need for this wall to throw upon Congress if he would hold her to 'strict accountability' for outrages against us he had meant what he said and had made it evident that he would not create any action which would not provoke war. It would prevent the cumulative outrages which lay the foundation for war."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

VERY GOOD—LONDON.

But U. S. Cannot Longer Remain Isolated.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Dec. 7.—The Times, commenting editorially on President Wilson's message to Congress, says to-day: "Events make President Wilson's war message from beginning to end a hard reality of the situation created by the war are beginning to show that the notion no longer is tenable that the United States can continue not only to live her own life and uphold her own exalted ideals throughout the New World, but also promote their realization in the old world without abandoning the splendid isolation she has so long enjoyed."

Mr. Wilson's new attitude of national defence is even more striking than his denunciation of those who abuse American hospitality."

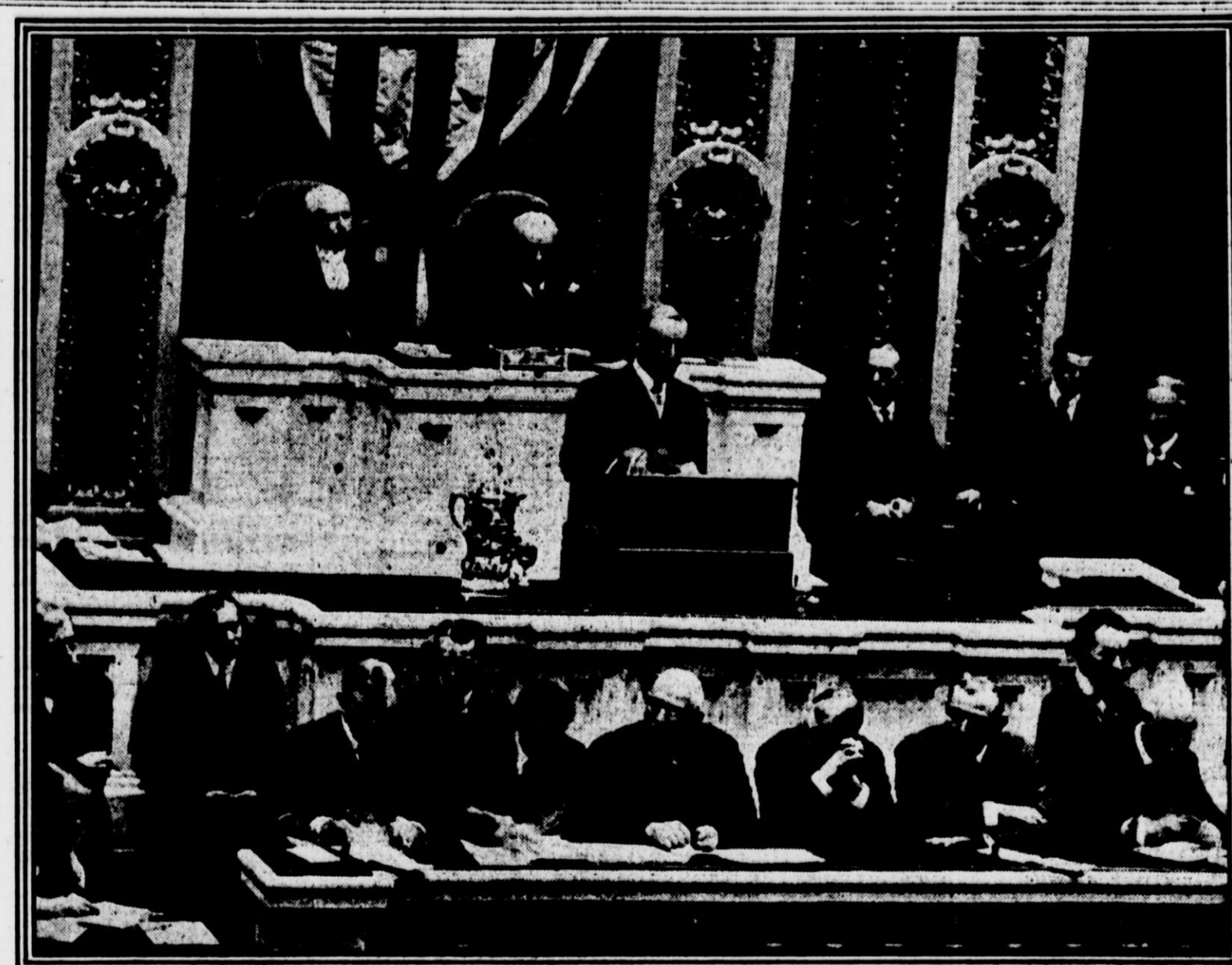
The Times expresses the opinion that the United States may fall to see how very near the line they are treading in the United States."

The Daily News applauds President Wilson's maintenance of neutrality, which it says, "incidentally has been of incalculable advantage to the Allies." Referring to offences of naturalized citizens the Daily News expresses a fear that the United States will be forced to take the active action against them."

"The strident waistcoat of constitutionalism originally fashioned for the United States is no longer endurable," it says. "More rapid means of dealing with new problems must be devised."

The editorial expresses doubt that the policy of avoiding European entanglements, which is inherent in the Monroe Doctrine, ever will be tenable again."

"Experience has shown the United States," the article adds, "that 'can no longer rely on political isolation for our geographical detachment. If Germany wins the war America's guarantee of the independence of the South American States is a mere promise to the wind, which the Monroe Doctrine is written.'"



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President Wilson reading his message in the House of Representatives to the members of the two houses of Congress. Senator James P. Clarke, President pro tempore of the Senate, and Speaker Champ Clark of the House, are seated at the presiding officer's desk.

MESSAGE STIRS PROTEST FROM GERMAN PRESS

The Staats-Zeitung, in an editorial commenting on President Wilson's message to Congress, says this morning: "We advise our readers—each and every one of them—to read with the most painstaking attention that part of the President's message which we are printing in heavy type this morning; to read that part not once superficially, but again and again until it is so deeply engraved in their minds that it can never be forgotten."

"In that part of his message the President passes judgment upon the citizens of the United States born under other flags. He accuses them of treason because, as he says, they have poured the poison of disloyalty into the veins of our national life; because they are alleged to have plotted sinister plots, conspired against the neutrality of our country and tried to gain an insight into every confidential act of the Government."

"Much already has been read in the newspapers about 'plots.' Not a single one has been proved in the courts thus far. Only one case in that of Robert Far, has a formal charge been preferred."

"And what is the trouble? The President tells us: 'We have no laws on the subject of conspiracies.' He says that 'unlabeled conspirators' can be found guilty. The President therefore demands new laws so as to apply them in these mysterious cases; so that suspicion, insinuation and denunciation may be given the character of evidence for convictions."

"The President commands Congress: 'Those mystic criminals, who are charged with nebulous things hitherto not recognized by our laws as punishable, must be crushed.'"

"And that is a Presidential message to Congress! A document more shameful than this is not recorded in the annals of American history."

With regard to that passage in the President's message referring to the necessity of an American merchant marine, the Staats-Zeitung allows the British to steal vessels registered under the American flag, private capital is bound to become suspicious."

"If the President did have today German-owned merchant ships, would he protect them against the pirates? And if so, why does he not today protect the private ships? We need only protection for our merchantmen plying on the 'free seas'; and that protection, it is evident, we must demand from Congress."

Commenting on the preparedness programme outlined by the President the Staats-Zeitung says: "Preparedness is really a red thread, and the proposals for a larger army and navy are almost lost behind the passionate outbursts in which the President pours out his personal and political spite and anger."

"The demands for an increase in the navy are not exaggerated. More might have been asked for the building up of our aviation service."

Calls for Vigorous Protest.
The German Herald says: "The attack made by the highest official of the country against the German Americans demands a strong and vigorous protest. German Americans, guard your most sacred possession: Your honor, your reputation is being misused before the whole country. Your loyalty is being doubted."

"A brilliant rhetoric will bring many a flattering praise to Prof. Wilson, but

have them! We are not afraid of them. They won't hit the German Americans, that great body of American citizens, except it be meant to create laws of exception against the German Americans to suppress their press and their free exchange of opinion. But we do not believe that Congress is to be had for laws of exception."

"The 'domestic enemy' paragraph of the message is a sign of the nervousness which has taken hold of the President since his policy has been submitted to such sharp criticism and not alone from the German American part of the population. In Congress this part of the message will only meet with a shaking of the head. We rely upon Congress."

St. Louis, Dec. 7.—The Westliche Post says editorially: "Mr. Wilson is not open in his talk as to whom he refers to in his demand for the passage of the law. It may be that he had in mind Messrs. Eliot and Pinchot, one of whom boasted that he didn't want to be neutral, and all of whom have carried on openly propaganda for the cause of the Allies and have urged an alliance with England. It may be also that his remarks referred to that Eastern press which has been so busy in the past few days in attacking the President."

"If President Wilson's shafts have been directed toward these offenders he will find no hearer supporters than the people of German birth or parentage. But if, as the press is inclined to assume, he refers to us (people of German birth or parentage) he makes himself guilty of an insult and injustice for which he never again can make amends."

Cincinnati, Dec. 7.—The Volks Blatt remarks: "For a year past English cruisers have confiscated American goods, have insulted the American flag and inflicted damage running into billions of dollars on all classes of American producers and manufacturers. But all those injuries and outrages are not mentioned in the President's message for submission to England, the President jumps on our citizens of German extraction with both feet, branding them as outlaws, destroyers of property, conspirators and what not. It strikes us that the President when he preaches fairness, self-control and the duties of good citizenship has himself a good deal to learn on the lines."

St. Louis, Dec. 7.—The Amerika (German) says: "In every legal trial the defendant must be called by name and the proof adduced on what the accusation is based. President Wilson does neither. Why has he not the courage to say 'I mean the Americans of German birth or descent'?"

Cincinnati, Dec. 7.—The Freie Presse, commenting on President Wilson's message, the Freie Presse says to-morrow: "It is clear that the President expects the proof for such accusations? Why does not the Administration bring those proofs into the courts? There is nothing behind that talk of plots, otherwise the mill of the courts would have made a little more noise. The mountains have labored and have brought forth a few little mice in the shape only of a few indictments."

"If there are more laws necessary to make crimes against the safety of the country impossible, then we say, let us

much from his military programme in his next campaign, but it is to be exceedingly regretted that Mr. Wilson considered the present as the proper time and place to make charges against citizens of his own country, charges which never before have been raised in a President's message and which cannot fail but cause the greatest sensation even outside the limits of our country."

SENATE TO APPROVE LANSING.

Appointed During Recess, Upper House Must Confirm Action.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—The nomination of Mr. Lansing as Secretary of State was sent to the Senate to-day by President Wilson. He was named to the post during a Congressional recess and will not be sworn in until the Senate returns. The President's action was necessary to confirm his appointment.

Several hundred nominations of other persons holding recess appointments also went to the upper House for action.

MUST CRUSH PLOTTERS IN U. S.—WILSON

Continued from First Page.

with each sentence, while an irritating smile spread over the faces on the Republican side of the aisle. The President's suggestion of a tax on pig iron and fabricated iron and steel came in for more general criticism than any other feature of the message, with the possible exception of his recommendation of a recommendation for the McAdoo ship purchase legislation.

The Democratic leaders in the House are at odds with the President on this question, and there is little likelihood that any tax on iron and steel can be put through Congress. The Republicans will oppose this measure unanimously, and there are many Democrats from iron and steel producing districts who will not consider it for a minute.

The chief objection raised to these suggested taxes is that they constitute a tax on industry and the labor employed in that industry.

Republicans insisted that the President had proposed this tax as a substitute for a tax on war munitions, and that it was intended partly to offset the harsh criticism contained in his message in regard to Americans of foreign parentage.

Gasoline Tax Hurts.
The Democrats from agricultural States are up in arms against his proposal to tax gasoline. They contend that it will be a hardship on the farmer who now uses gasoline to a considerable extent in prosecuting his business.

There was much general commendation for the President's address than for any other. His idea of America standing together for the Americas is one that has been urged by representatives of some of the large South American countries. The impression in Washington is that this section of his address will be read by European countries, especially by European rulers, with more interest than any other with the possible exception of that in which the President acknowledges the existence of a "distemper" within the country.

In this connection the interesting rumor was circulated in Washington to-night that the President had told members of Congress that he feared the sooner or later the United States or the Americas would have to fight in defense of the Monroe Doctrine. Some color is lent to this statement by one fact that the President admits that under normal conditions with Democratic rule we shall face a deficit of \$270,000,000 at the close of the fiscal year next June. It is simply Democratic inefficiency.

The President's address in the upper house, said: "The preparedness programme involves very large appropriations. As in other matters this will be settled by mutual giving and taking, but in the end the programme will be agreed on in all its essential features, I believe."

Senator Simmons, Democrat: "It was a virile deliverance. I believe it is the ablest paper the President has read to Congress. It deals with questions of the greatest immediate importance to the American people and deals with them in the right way."

Uncle Joe Cannon: "I wish the newspapers would print the President's address of to-day, the address of twelve months ago and his speech at Indianapolis in parallel columns—and let the people judge for themselves."

Democratic House Leader Kitchin: "It is a good message."

Representative Saunders, chairman of the Democratic caucus and one of the opponents of preparedness: "President Wilson gave no reasons for the extensive army and navy programme recommended and in fact said there was no immediate peril. If that be so why not wait until the European war is over before we begin building up our navy and army?"

Senator Clarke, president pro tempore: "An able message, a stirring message and a message to which the American people will give their heartiest approval."

Senator Underwood: "A message interesting in its frank facing of financial problems."

Senator O'Gorman: "A message which will appeal to the sentiment and patriotism of the American people."

Senator Hoke Smith, Democrat: "I am in hearty sympathy with the striking expressions of the President in favor of national defence."

Senator Weeks: "The President's language in reference to a great many matters is so general that it may be very differently construed by readers."

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the British Ambassador and the Ministers from Peru, Panama, Salvador and many attaches in the diplomatic corps were seated. No member of the German or Austrian Embassy staff was in the gallery.

PRaise AND CRITICISM.

Congressional Observer Impressed With Size of Budget.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—Many differing opinions were expressed here to-day regarding the President's message.

"The thing which strikes me most forcibly as a practical man," said Republican House Leader Mann, "is that the President admits that under normal conditions with Democratic rule we shall face a deficit of \$270,000,000 at the close of the fiscal year next June. It is simply Democratic inefficiency."

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